

December 6, 1999

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Donna Shalala, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C.
20201

Dear Secretary Shalala,

This letter is in regard to the decision to weaken labeling requirements for irradiated food that is being considered by the Food and Drug Administration. I firmly believe that it is everyone's right to know if the food that is offered consumers has been treated with radiation.

Food products undergo chemical changes when it has been exposed to radioactive isotopes. The cosmetic and nutritional changes in foods warrant disclosure in a prominent place on the package. Food that is not packaged should be accompanied by information (telling of its irradiated state) posted in plain view of where it is displayed for sale. Labels are required by law to be truthful and not misleading to the customer. Only clear, honest and permanent labeling is acceptable for irradiated foods.

I hope that you will defend the consumer's right to know in this important matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

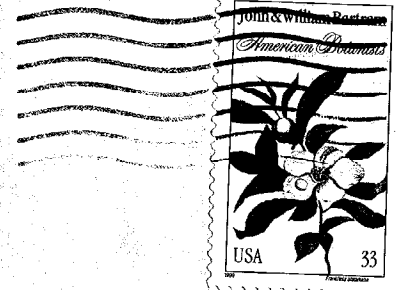
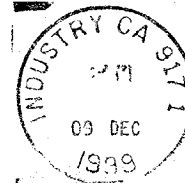
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